

November 16, 2006

RE: RM-11348

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 20, 1999, two students armed with an arsenal of weapons and 99 explosive devices shot and killed 12 students, one teacher and then themselves. During the incident over 1000 first responders from 47 different agencies came together in a united effort to resolve an extremely complex incident. As one of the Incident Commanders at this incident, I can categorically say that our largest struggle was communications.

I am writing you to express my personal endorsement for the proposal submitted to the FCC on April 27th by Cyren Call Communications. Admittedly, at first I was skeptical; a private/public broadband network? But, after full review, I find the proposal has a great deal of potential and warrants strong consideration. I encourage you and the other members of the Federal Communications Commission to thoroughly examine this proposal. Without something like this, interoperability will very likely never be accomplished. The present course is plagued with outdated technology, system incompatibilities, lack of funding, and most importantly territorialism. This proposal would open the door to embracing a national vision with public safety oversight, ongoing access to new technologies and an ongoing funding source.

The lose of dollars from the auctioning of the spectrum is a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of money federal, state and local governments will be spending on the alternative path, the one they are presently heading down. Even with billions already spent, we have just scratched the surface to interoperability.

Hardly a day goes by that I don't relive that dark day in April seven years ago. No community should ever have to go through what we did that day. Unfortunately, the world is changing, or maybe we have just had our eyes closed, regardless, our communications systems need to be ready for the next school shooting, terrorist attack, or natural disaster. Please help! Do not let this proposal slip through the cracks.

Sincerely,

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